

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

EDITED BY JOHN R. RICE

Office 512 West Franklin Street, Wheaton, Illinois

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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THISTLEDOWN Following Jesus

By D. M. Panton

(This article was first published in *The Morning Star*, London, by the editor, D. M. Panton. In this country it was reprinted by *The Sunday School Times*, and it has been extensively circulated as a tract since. Read it by all means.)

Do we realize the extraordinary dynamic of the printed page? Dr. Goodell, of the American Board of Missions, passing through Nicodemus in 1832, having no time to stop, left with a stranger a copy of *The Dairyman's Daughter* in the Armenian-Turkish language. Seventeen years afterward he visited Nicodemus, and found a church of more than forty members, and a Protestant community of more than two hundred. Dr. Griffith John tells of eight churches in China reared by tracts alone. Sir Bartle Frere, traveling in India, was amazed to find a small town in which the idol shrines and temples were empty, but the townfolk professed the Christian Faith. It transpired that some years earlier, one of the townsfolk had been given an old garment by an English resident, in a pocket of which, forgotten, lay a Gospel portion with eight or nine tracts in the vernacular. The Life is not in the sower, but in the seed. Even if an infidel scattered the Scriptures, he would only be exploding his own battlements.

For in scattering divine literature we liberate thistledown, laden with precious seed, which, blown by the winds of the Spirit, floats over the world. The printed page

never flinches, never shows cowardice; it is never tempted to compromise; it never tires, never grows disheartened; it travels cheaply, and requires no hired hall; it works while we sleep; it never loses its temper; and it works long after we are dead. The printed page is a visitor which gets inside the home, and stays there; it always catches a man in the right mood, for it speaks to him only when he is reading it; it always sticks to what it has said, and never answers back; and it is balt left permanently in the pool.

Another powerful reason for using literature is that the printed page will reach those otherwise utterly unreachable, and may be the only chance they will ever have of eternal life. Someone once gave four copies of H. L. Hastings' lecture on the Inspiration of the Bible to four infidels at different times. All four were converted, and became ministers of the Gospel in four different denominations. Many decades ago, a lady gave some leaflets to two actors. One of the actors, led by this tract to attend church and so becoming converted, was Dr. George Lorimer, pastor of Tremont Temple, Boston. Through his influence, Russell H. Conwell was led into the ministry. Thus the Baptist Temple in Philadelphia, together with the work of the Tremont Temple, and the personal influence of these two notable pulpit speakers, is traceable to one little leaflet in the hands of a woman.

Nor can any limit be put to the extent of its possible influence. Luther wrote a pamphlet on Galatians which, falling into Bunyan's hands, converted him; and the 135th translation (an African) of Pilgrim's Progress has just been issued. More than 150,000,000 copies of Spurgeon's sermons have gone into circulation. Nor is even its political influence measurable. A young Frenchman who had been wounded at the siege of Saint Quentin was languishing on a pallet in the hospital where a tract that lay on the coverlet caught his eye. He read it and was converted by it. The monument of that man may be seen before the Church of the Consistory in Paris, standing with a Bible in his hand — Admiral Coligny, the leader of the Reformation in France. But the tract had not yet finished its work. It was read by Coligny's nurse, a Sister of Mercy, who penitently placed it in the hands of the Lady Abbess, and she, too, was converted by it.

She fled from France to the Palatinate, where she met a young Hollander and became his wife. The influence which she had upon that man re-acted upon the whole continent of Europe, for he was William of Orange, who became the champion of liberty and Protestantism in the Netherlands.

The printed page is deathless: you can destroy one, but the Press can reproduce millions: as often as it is martyred, it is raised: the ripple started by a given tract can widen down the centuries until it beats upon the Great White Throne. Its very mutilation can be its sowing. When Leigh Richmond was once travelling by coach, passengers got out to walk and he began to give a tract to every wayfarer he met. One of his fellow-travellers smiled derisively as he saw a tract treated contemptuously by the receiver, torn in two, and thrown down on the road. A puff of wind carried it over a hedge into a hayfield, where a number of haymakers were seated; and soon they were listening to the tract, read by one of their number who had found

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BY EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

(Preached Sunday morning, May 5, 1940, Missionary Conference, Cicero Bible Church, Cicero, Illinois.)

It is a great joy to be here in this great church. I wish I had time to pay the tribute which is deserved to your good pastor, Brother McCarrell, who does the work of an apostle. His missionary zeal, his soul winning success, his fidelity to the Word of God, and the remarkable esteem in which he is held over all this nation should gladden your hearts, and I know it does. It is an unusual privilege for me to have fellowship with him and speak to his people. I feel somewhat like carrying coals to New Castle when I come to preach to a group of people so well fed as you are. David said about his enemies one time, "Their heart is as fat as grease." And I think maybe sometime you people are too fat. You ought to be worked more and fed less. You ought to be sheared more, and more done with the wool, and not fed so much. You are fed so much you are a little sick and wobbly on your legs. You need to work more. But it is a joy to be with you and to be in this pulpit where Brother McCarrell has graced it so often and been blessed with the blessing of God.

Matthew 4:19 will be the text this morning. Read Matthew 4:18-20:

"And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishers."

"And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

"And they straightway left their nets, and followed him."

This is the text: "Follow me and

I will make you fishers of men."

It is obvious from this scripture that if you are not a fisher of men, you are not following Jesus. It is equally clear that He has to make a soul winner. They are not made by nature. Schools do not make them. Education doesn't make them. Your natural abilities do not make you a soul winner. It takes a supernatural act of Jesus Christ to make you a soul winner.

If You Don't Fish, You Don't Follow

If you follow Christ, He will make you into a soul winner. If you are not a soul winner, you are not following Him. You may be saved, but you are a backslider. You may be born again, but you are a rebellious, disobedient Christian. You may claim to be a Christian and you may get into Heaven, but you will get in with a mighty red face. You will get there naked, and the things you spent your life on, wood, hay and stubble, will all be burned up in a day when every man's work will be tried by fire. If you are not a soul winner, you are a bum Christian! You are a fake! You are not what you pretend to be! You are the kind of insulation that keeps the world from the gospel! You are a disgrace to any church! If you are not a soul winner, then you are not a good Christian. I don't care how much money you give or how much you use your talents — you may sing pretty songs or you may pass the collection pans and say Amen, you may be on the board — we have too many wooden heads on the board now. (I don't know a single one of your board members, so I can preach about them if I want to and they will know I am not personal.) I don't know what your job is, but it is a fake, an alibi, a blind for your backslidden heart if you are not a soul winner!

Let's see what the Saviour said:

"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

I think that if I can go deeper than just the matter of an offering this morning — I want immediate results, too — but if I can go deeper than just the matter of an offering for the mission work this year, if I can make you by God's grace to hunger with a passion for the winning of souls in Chicago and Cicero and around the world, if I can get that in your heart; if you become a soul winner in your heart, your money will come in and your labors will increase and your heart will be blessed and you will have power to win souls. "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men," Jesus said.

First the Saviour said, "Follow me." There are two simple parts to this: First, follow Jesus, and second, He makes you into a soul winner.

You Must Forsake Something To Follow Jesus

All right, follow Jesus. That involves forsaking everything. "And they straightway left their nets and followed him." You can't follow Jesus until you leave something. Some of our friends have a great controversy in places where doctrine is much in vogue — and it ought to be everywhere — they have a good deal of controversy about faith and repentance. Some say one has to repent first and then

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"When Was Sabbath Changed to First Day of the Week?"

Mrs. O. B. K.—
Luling, Texas
Dear Mrs. K.—

I thank you for your letter which came the other day. You asked me particularly to show "Who, when and why" the Sabbath was changed, if I have a record about it.

The answer is that the Sabbath was never changed from the seventh day to the first day of the week. The Sabbath was Saturday, the seventh day. It was first made known at Mount Sinai as a part of the Mosaic law (Nehemiah 9:14). It was a special sign between God and Israel only (Exodus 31:12-16). No one was ever commanded to keep the Sabbath before the Mosaic law was given. And no one was ever commanded to keep it after Christ came. There is not a single command in the New Testament for any Christian to observe the Sabbath. Rather, the Bible expressly commands that now no Christian is to keep the Sabbath (Col. 2:14-17).

The Lord's day is an entirely different day. It is not a sabbath day, not given to the same people nor for the same purpose. The sabbath was a day of rest, not necessarily a day of worship. There is not a single command in the Bible for Jews nor anybody else to worship on the sabbath day. They were commanded simply to rest. Paul and other New Testament preachers sometimes preached to the crowd assembled in the synagogues upon the sabbath day, just as I sometimes preach to crowds gathered in country towns on Saturday. It is proper always to preach to people wherever you find them and

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Lodge Book Ready

The editor's new book on *Lodges Examined By the Bible* will be ready for distribution May 22 or 23, the publisher tells us. By the time you get this paper, we should have hundreds of copies on hand. Nothing ever written by the editor has aroused such widespread interest on first appearance as these articles when they were first published in *The Sword of the Lord*.

Additional material has been added. The articles have been strengthened, corrected, and we feel assured God will use this pamphlet in a mighty way.

There are eight chapters, 112 pages. It is about the size of the editor's book, *What Is Wrong With the Movies?* that has already run into the fifth edition in twenty-one months, I believe, since it was first offered the public in pamphlet form. Many thousands of copies have spread over the English speaking world. But we believe the new book, *Lodges Examined By the Bible* will soon pass the record of the other book.

Here are many Scriptures proving beyond any doubt that the consecrated Christian should come out and leave the secret orders. Read what God says about the oaths of the lodges, about its secrecy, about its false plan of salvation damning millions, about its yoking up of Christians with unbelievers and so compromising Christian influence. Read about the editor's actual experience in a lodge. Read the tes-

timony of the great Christian leaders like Moody, Finney, Torrey, Gray, Moody Memorial Church, Wheaton College, The National Christian Association, the stand of Lutheran, Nazarene, Mennonite and other churches.

Examine the actual blasphemous oaths taken in some lodges. See the bloodthirsty meaning. See how lodge members are obligated to protect each other even in crime, how they swear to favor lodge men above Christian brothers. See the false religion of the lodges contrary to the Bible, sometimes forbidding the name of Jesus Christ, welcoming heathens on the same scale as Christians, holding heathen deities equal with Jesus Christ, other books equal to the Bible! Read why the editor felt compelled to break his oath of secrecy, to confess and renounce his sin, and expose the lodges.

This book is written in kindly spirit, in moderate, intelligent, tolerant language. It gives actual facts, actual experiences, many, many Scriptures. We believe there is nothing like it on the lodge question for Christians published since the days when giants like Finney, Moody, Torrey, Gray and Blanchard exposed the evils.

Please order at once *Lodges Examined By the Bible*, at 35c a copy, or 25c each in lots of ten or more. Order from

THE SWORD BOOK ROOM
512 W. Franklin St., Wheaton, Ill.

Dear Rev. Rice:

"Seems the Lord would have me write you a letter of appreciation for writing the book, *What Is Wrong With the Movies?* While reading the book, I had to stop from time to time and praise the Lord for the book and for my deliverance because I came so near to having a testimony like the girls in your book. But praise the Lord, I have the GREATEST testimony, that I'm a sinner saved by grace (Eph. 2:8).

"I am now twenty-two years old and have surrendered my life to Him that He may use me to do His will. I was raised in a fine Christian home, the only child of a very godly mother and father. However, on reaching high school we were advised to see certain movies to make reports on for history or English, etc., so this started me to the movies, much to my mother's and father's sorrow. I know it caused them many a heartache, but they prayed. They couldn't stop me themselves, but they could pray for me. I kept going until finally I was a real movie fan and the movies had taken me from Christ.

"My father was taken Home to be with the Lord about this time and I had to withdraw from college. This gave me more time to go to the movies. I didn't have a job and from seeing the luxury and wealth in the movies (I Peter 1:18, 19), I was very discouraged and about ready to commit suicide when the mercy of the Lord intercepted and drew me back to Him. I rededicated my life and started anew for Him. The Lord has bestowed blessings upon blessings upon me since. I now have a grand position with the largest insurance

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FOLLOWING JESUS

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he has to believe. Other people say, "No, you believe first and then you repent." And there are some arguments on both sides, but that is simply because they do not see the whole. You can't follow Jesus without turning your back on something else. Some preachers don't like me because I preach a good deal on sin. But if people don't know about sin, they don't need to know about the Son. It wouldn't do any good. If there is not a Hell for people to turn their backs on, if there is not a personal devil, and if people are not by nature wicked, corrupt and damned sinners, deserving Hell and going to Hell, there is no use for Calvary. There are two sides, Christ's side and the sinner's side, and it involves faith toward Christ and involves certainly repentance on the matter of sin. You can't follow Jesus unless you leave some things. I wonder if you have left anything for Jesus.

"I left, I left it all for thee,
What hast thou left for Me?"

These men left their nets and left a good business and left their ships and their father with the business. They left their families even. They left all. Later Peter said to Jesus, and there is something plaintive in it, don't criticize him for it, "Lord, we have left all and followed thee. What shall we have therefore? We came by faith, but tell us again that you said we wouldn't lose by it. We have left everything." And Paul said, looking toward the resurrection, "If there be no resurrection from the dead, we are of all men most miserable." So to follow Jesus means a forsaking.

A little further, verses twenty-one and twenty-two, say,

"And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them.

"And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him."

They followed him. Over in the ninth chapter Jesus came by where Matthew, or Levi the publican, was.

"And as Jesus passed forth from thence, he saw a man, named Matthew, sitting at the receipt of custom: and he saith unto him, Follow me. And he arose, and followed him."

—Matthew 9:9.

He had to leave the table where he was raking in the shekels to follow Jesus. He was a tax collector and was making a lot of money. That was a kind of a crooked game, but it was certainly profitable. But he left it. And whether it is a matter of leaving ships and a fishing business or your father or your business, you can't follow Jesus until you leave something. That is one reason in these modern days Christianity so-called makes no impression on the world. You will never be able to have what they had in Bible times if it does not mean a forsaking, if you have not left anything. The woman who dresses like the world, has her hair cut like the world, and her face painted like a street hussy, and her finger nails, and who wears the same kind of halter and shorts that the devil's crowd wears and dances and goes to the movies, and you men who smoke like the devil's crowd and stink like the devil's crowd, and you people who have a little beer in your ice box — you will never amount to anything for God. You say, "No, sir! We don't have beer in our ice box!" Then if it isn't that, you have got to have just as much to eat and you have to dress just as well and drive just as good cars and live in just as fine a home, and you are no more concerned about sinners going to Hell in China, in Africa, in South America, in India, than the outside

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world. The outside world says you are a hypocrite and I fear John R. Rice says, Amen! You are not following Jesus until you have left something. No, no, you are not!

I stand a woman the other day stand up and say, "I want to tell the young people, I have heard people talk like they had to give up this and that and the other. I didn't have to give up anything to be a Christian." She said, "Some things just fell away, but I didn't have to give up anything."

Well, Peter and John did. These men did. They left their father and left their fishing business, and Levi left a profitable income. It is impossible to follow Jesus if you do not leave something.

Down in the Pacific Garden Mission in June, 1921, I had the joy of seeing some people saved, and I went around to an old drunken bum and God helped me and some way he learned to trust the Saviour and was happily saved. And in my heart I said, "Lord, I had rather do this than to go back and teach in college."

And the Lord said to me, "Why don't you get at it, then?"

And I said, "If You will save people, I will."

I had no illusions about it. I knew I would be leaving something.

I tell you, listen to me, you won't ever amount to anything for Jesus Christ until you leave something. You can't do it. You can't follow Jesus without leaving something. One reason you are not a soul winner is because you have never left anything. You say, "Well, Brother Rice, about the movies, or about this and that and the other, I don't see any harm in it." If it keeps you from being a soul winner, that is plenty of harm, isn't it? Some of you, God wants you to preach. There is somebody God wants in Africa or India or some other mission work or some full-time work.

I know what is the matter. You say God hasn't opened the door, but the trouble is, you don't want to leave something. You want your good car and your fine home and the security that is yours. If you don't give it up, you will never follow Jesus.

Nobody follows Jesus who does not leave something. Some of you have never left a hat for Jesus or a suit of clothes! Some of you have never been insulted for Jesus Christ! Nobody ever spit in your face, nobody ever cursed you or said you were a fool or said you were crazy. Nobody ever said you were a Holy Roller. Some of you never did leave anything for Jesus, that is why you are not a soul winner.

I tell you now why it is a lot of you people are not willing to give. This pastor pleads and carries the load of your mission work. Your pledges have reached about \$10,000 for next year. It will go beyond that because of some people who have already committed themselves to it, and a few gifts from the outside. You won't give so much of it. But I believe, Brother Pastor, you are going to get it by taking a corkscrew and threatening and cajoling and pulling and hauling. I believe you will get the pledges up to \$20,000 if you keep on hauling and screwing and pulling and threatening and shaming the people and bragging on them. One way or the other I believe you will get it in nickels and dimes!

But that is not the way they did about the tabernacle of the Lord in the wilderness. When Moses made announcement that they needed fine linen and needed gold and brass and silver and precious stones and all these things, Moses just told the people they needed them, and they came in and came in, and finally a man filled with the Holy Spirit that God had appointed to do the work of the tabernacle said, "Moses, make an announcement quick!"

"What's the matter? Do you want me to tell the people to give more?"

"No, tell them to quit giving! Tell them not to bring any more! We already have enough and too much. Tell them not to bring in any more" (Exo. 36:4-7).

And that is not the way it was in New Testament times, either. When people were filled with the Holy Ghost sometimes they were beaten and some were slain. Stephen died as a martyr, and

others were beaten and counted it a joy and went home rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer for Him (Acts 5:41). Others brought all they had and laid it down at the apostles' feet (Acts 2:44, 45). And everybody had plenty and had all they needed because they left something. A man named Barnabas had some land on the Island of Crete, and he sold it and brought the money to the apostles Acts 4:36, 37). That is the normal giving of Christians, Spirit-filled Christians.

I tell you, your trouble now is because you have never made up your mind that you would give up anything for Jesus Christ, that you would leave anything for God. You are no account as a Christian! You can't follow Christ without leaving something. How could Christ be your Saviour without leaving Heaven? He couldn't be your Saviour and sit on a throne. He couldn't have a cross and a throne at the same time. He couldn't have both. He couldn't have the applause of multitudes and Gethsemane, too. And you can't follow Jesus until you leave something.

Somebody says, "Well, Brother Rice, I think in due time my whole family is going to come across." Maybe they will, but I remind you the Saviour said that He came not to bring peace but a sword and that a man's enemies shall be they of his own household, that he will set three against two and two against three (Luke 12:51-53). That is the Saviour's way about it. If you never suffer for Him, you are no account for Christ, you don't mean business for God! You are a milk and cider kind of a Christian! You are what they call in China a "rice Christian!" I doesn't cost you anything. God have mercy on people who claim to be Christians and who have never left anything!

You surely ought to be different. You ought to shed some hair when you turn from a goat to a sheep. Something ought to happen to you, and when you say, "I am God's man," you ought to have God's brand on you, and act like you are different. You are a Christian but you haven't left anything! You are not following Jesus. "Follow me," He said, so they left their nets and their business and left their father and left their families and they left all and followed Jesus! And one day they are going to sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel because they left something. Nobody is ever any account for God if he doesn't leave something.

A young man came to me when I taught in college and said, "Brother Rice, I have got to tell somebody. I want counsel, tell me what to do. You know I am called to China and I must go. But," he said, "the girl I love, and she says she loves me and we are engaged to be married, but she says she will never go to China. She says she can't leave her mother and go that far. She says she doesn't mind if I preach in this country but she can't go to China. What shall I do?"

And I said, "I didn't call you, and I didn't save you, and I didn't write the Bible. I can't tell you what to do. You know what to do." I said, "I can weep with you, but you know already what to do."

And he said, "Yes, I know what to do." And he cried a while and then said, "And by God's grace I will do it!"

"Maybe God will change her mind," I said. "Maybe God will fix her heart and you can go to China together. That is not hard for God. But maybe God wants to give you glory and honor for a million years and let you shine like the stars in the firmament of glory because you left something for Him."

Nobody ever followed Jesus until they left something. "Follow me," He said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

"Oh," you say, "I want to follow You, Lord Jesus, but must I leave all the flowers? Must I leave all the sweetness of home and the beauties that are around about me?" Maybe so. At least, in your heart you must leave them. I don't know whether God means for you to be like Paul and never lead about a wife and never hold your own child in your arms, I don't know whether God wants you to do that, but I know that God wants you to be ready to. I know that. I don't know whether God wants you to go to Africa, but I know you ought to say, "Lord Jesus, if You want me to, I will leave before

sundown." That has to be settled already.

I don't say that if God said for me to leave my wife and children and the homeland, I don't say that I would have no tears, I don't say that it wouldn't be hard. I don't say there wouldn't be any fighting about it and a scrap in my heart, but I have already told God years ago that I would do it, and by His grace I say it again. If you can't say every day, "My will is going to die—" and you will have to do it again tomorrow maybe, but do it again tomorrow — if you don't say that, you can't follow Jesus. Self has to die. The Bible says we must mortify the deeds of the flesh.

Have you heard about the man who was in the building trade? He was a brick mason, and he was working on the third story of a building. The scaffolding was not high enough, so he stepped up onto the new made wall. The mortar was still green and the brick slipped and he fell those three stories! He thought it was the end, of course, but he hit in the mortar box below. Everybody expected he would be killed, that he would break his neck or something, but he fell into the mortar box and splashed the mortar everywhere. It went into his eyes and his ears and in his mouth. As he got up, sputtering and spitting, he said, "I was never so mortified in my life."

No Christian can follow Jesus until self is mortified. No Christian can follow Jesus until self is dead and shamed and denied and forgotten and crucified. Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23). You had just as well see this, my friends: to follow Jesus means a cross and it means death. Paul said, "I die daily," and the Scripture says, "Reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin." You have to die if you follow Jesus. He did.

Brother McCarrell, isn't it a strange thing? The people spit in Jesus' face, but nobody spits in mine and yours! He sweat the bloody sweat, and it is strange for our hearts never to break over a dying world! Isn't it a strange thing that some people hated Him and betrayed Him and sold Him for money and others laughed Him to scorn while He died, and yet you and I have no real enemies? Don't you think that is a strange thing that we reign and He had to suffer? No, no, to follow Jesus means Gethsemane; it means Calvary; it means a broken heart; it means betrayal and reproach to follow Jesus. I wonder, have you died yet? Do you count yourself dead? Do you go back and nail self to the cross every day? If you don't you are not following Jesus. I say, to follow Jesus means you have to die to self, to your purposes and plans and ambitions. I do not know anything that brands us any more as

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Thistledown

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it. He was observed carefully joining together the two parts which had been torn asunder, but were held together by a thread. The reader was led to reflection and prayer, and subsequently became an earnest Christian and tract distributor himself; and of the rest, within twelve months three became active Christian workers.

Now let us forget the enormous electric voltage prayer can put behind the tract. God's thistledown enters doors locked to the evangelist; it can be enclosed in every letter; its economy places it within the reach of all; it preaches in the factory, the railway carriage, the kitchen; it visits the hospital ward and the workhouse, and whispers in the ear of the dying. For prayer — that is, God — is behind it. "On every tract or copy of the Holy Scriptures which we give," says George Muller, "(1) we should as much as possible ask God's blessing. (2) We should expect God's blessing upon our labors and confidently expect it; yea, look out for His blessing. (3) We should labor on in this service, prayerfully and believably labor on, even though for a long time we should see little or no fruit; yea, we should labor on as if everything depended on our labors, whilst, in reality, we ought not to put the least confidence in our exertions, but alone in God's ability and willingness to bless, by His Holy Spirit, our efforts for the sake of the Lord Jesus."

The final — and almost incredible — incentive is that the opportunity is rapidly passing. The printing and distribution of godly literature in Russia is now impossible; and in countries so near us as Italy and Germany, it is sharply limited. It may soon be over for us.

The sunset burns across the sky;
Upon the air its warning cry
The curfew tolls, from tower
to tower;
O children, 'tis the last, last
hour!
The work that centuries might
have done
Must crowd the hour of setting
sun;
And through all lands the saving
Name
Ye must in fervent haste pro-
claim.

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FOLLOWING JESUS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

a bunch of hypocrites than this — I find that people go to church and go through all the forms and ceremonies, they sing lovely songs and teach classes, they are members of clubs and classes and, oh, the activities! They are like bees, yes, but they are people that have no passion for sinners! I cannot understand it.

You Can't Follow Jesus Without A Heart Broken Over Dying Sinners

I can't understand how a week can go by here and you don't bring any lost sinners to hear me preach. I am a mighty poor, sorry preacher, but God blesses me in winning sinners. But you don't bring anybody. Why? I can't understand how you are willing to get up and teach a Sunday school class of a little handful when you ought to have a school of two thousand here. There are people running loose on the streets, and there is very little competition for a great church and Sunday school in this area. Do you know why you don't? I will tell you why — you have no passion for sinners; you don't go after them. You have no weeping over the dying souls around you. Oh, to me it seems strange that you let your pastor carry the burden and the weight, and you let him raise the money — the organization helps to carry it on — and you are proud of him. You think he is great, and he is. Yet you are breaking his heart and breaking him down. His heart is burdened for sinners and yours is not.

You ought to be proud of him, and you are. But, oh, if he had a bunch of you people getting a crowd to fill this building — you ought to have three hundred sinners here this morning to hear the gospel. I ought to be able to give an invitation and have a lot of people saved. But you come up here and sit down and enjoy the services. You are saved, and you are satisfied. "Me, and my wife; my son John and his wife; us four and no more," and to Hell with the rest.

That is the way you feel about it, isn't it? You don't put it in words, no. But you have no passion, and that proves you are not following Jesus. You can't follow Jesus without loving sinners. You can't follow Jesus without feeding His sheep. If you had any idea about

His concern today in Heaven! There is one thing that makes the corridors of Heaven ring and the bells peal and the Hallelujah's rise — it is the salvation of sinners! Isn't it strange that you are not concerned about it? If you were more of a Christian you would be. If you were interested in what He is interested in, you would be a soul winner. If you really followed Him you would.

Dr. T. T. Eaton down in Kentucky, I think it was, told about his brother. He said that when his brother was just twelve years old, he had a dog. Now that dog wasn't a bulldog, it wasn't a collie dog, it wasn't a pointer dog; it was just a dog, just an old cur dog. It wasn't good as a watch dog, it would wag its tail at any tramp that came around. It wasn't good as a hunting dog, it was just a dog, that's all. But he was a pal of the boy and the boy loved the dog. Everybody else despised him. When it was cold he would slip in the house for warmth. Then some of the older girls would get the broom and there would be a howl and out would go the dog. The boy would be angry and insulted over it, and he would say, "Leave my dog alone!" "But he gets hairs on the carpet and all over the house," they would say. The boy would slip out food for the dog, and if someone caught him, he would have to take it back and give the dog the scraps that were left. The boy loved his dog with a passion.

There came one summer when the boy had a chance to go out in the country visiting his grandmother. Oh, my, at grandmother's where you can ride horses and go swimming! Then the day came for him to leave. The carriage waited, and he was telling his folks goodbye. He was out on the front walk with a bundle under his arm. His dog came alone, saying, "Please let me go. You will let me go, won't you?" And the boy said, "No, you can't go, Rover." "You people please be good to my dog while I am gone. Don't be mean to my dog," he said. And he got in the carriage and rode away.

Out in the country at grandmother's he took the typhoid fever — the slow fever they called it then. And, oh, the long, long weeks he lingered and the little light finally flickered and went out. And

Bible Questions

Answered

Mr. P. A. B.—
Englewood, Colorado
Dear Brother B.—

February 1st you wrote me some Bible questions which I will try to answer.

1. "Explain First Corinthians 7: 27, 28."

The passage referred to says: "Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife. But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you."

Answer: The meaning of this passage is partly explained by verses 20 and 24 in the same chapter. If one becomes a Christian, then that does not mean he should seek to be set from an unsaved wife. Or if one becomes saved, that is not a reason for seeking to get married. Rather, when one is saved, let him "abide in the same calling wherein he was called." Some Christians at Corinth when they got saved sought to get rid of their unsaved companions as you see from verses 10 to 15 of the same chapter.

However, Paul explains if one marries after he is a Christian (vs. 28), that is not a sin, although marriage will bring more trouble in the flesh. But what Paul means expressly is this, because one is saved is not a reason either to quit a wife or to seek a wife.

2. "How can eternal security be reconciled with Romans 6:16 and Romans 11:22?"

Answer: Romans 6:16 which is as follows: "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey: whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness" — has nothing to do with eternal security except this. One has yielded himself as a servant to Christ is counted righteous and is saved. This refers to the decision

they buried the boy and never brought him home.

And Dr. Eaton said, "If you go back to the old home now you will find a dog, so old his hair is turning gray all around his muzzle. He is so fat he can't get around much, and his eyes look watery and his teeth are not what they used to be. And now they cook a special kind of food for him all the time. It used to be they would run him out with the broom. He gets hair on the carpet now, but nobody says anything about it. They just sweep it up. He has a box fixed right by the fire place. Everybody on the place sees about the old dog and nobody dares say a word about it, either. Nobody criticizes or mentions the dog in a harsh voice, because," Dr. Eaton said, "The last words we heard our brother say was, 'Please be good to my dog.'"

So Dr. Eaton said, and I say also, you may not care — I don't know whether you care for the Dagos or the Chinks or Greasers or Wops or Godless Russians or brutal Germans or painted savages — I am using terms of reproach the world uses — I don't know whether you care, but the Lord Jesus does, and the last word He said was, "Go and preach the gospel to every creature. Tell them I love them, that I died for them and I want them saved."

And you are not following Jesus if you don't have a passion for the dying world. Oh, may God give us the heart He has for sinners! He loves sinners! In these modern churches you have to have your stained glass windows, and most of them have pipe organs. You don't

have the pipe organ, but you have all the fixings around here. This is wonderful, isn't it? Oh, boy, we have the class, haven't we? And the best preacher in town, haven't we?

And we have a bunch of missionaries, and I give a quarter now and then myself — don't you?

Sure, you have a great church, but you are not a Christian in any sense of the word if you aren't concerned about the lost world.

If you were like Jesus you would love sinners. He loved them, and the world never gets over the marvel that Jesus loves sinners.

You are not much of a Christian, you are not following Jesus, unless you have a passion and a concern for

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

"When Was the Sabbath Changed to First Day of the Week?"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

whenever you can find the greatest number.

My secretary sent you my booklet, "Sunday or Sabbath, Which Should Christians Observe?" I hope you will read it very prayerfully and carefully. I know it will answer your questions if you can be open minded enough to learn by checking the Scriptures for yourself. It is difficult to give up preconceived opinions.

You say that the only record you have is that Rome forced Sunday on the church. If that be so, then it seems clear that the only record you have is the Seventh Day Adventist record. As a student for many years, (once a college teacher), I know that there is not a single record in all church history of Rome changing the sabbath

of the heart, and every one who is saved has made this decision, repenting of sin and turning to Christ. This does not refer to falling into sin or to being tempted.

Romans 11:22 says: "Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God; on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness; otherwise thou also shalt be cut off."

Bearing in mind the rest of the chapter, we see that Paul says that the severity of God fell on the race of Jews so that as a specially chosen nation receiving the gospel first, they were cut off because of unbelief. Now "blindness in part is happened unto Israel until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in" (vs. 25 below). That scripture does not mean that any living Jew lost his salvation, for certainly that did not happen. Rather, since Jews so universally rejected the gospel of Christ, then the gospel was given to Gentiles, and the great day of opportunity for hearing the gospel by the Jews was postponed "until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in."

Likewise, if Gentiles as a class reject the gospel, "thou shalt also be cut off." That refers not to Gentle Christians losing their salvation, but the Gentle race losing their opportunity to hear the gospel. In God's mercy these days the gospel is preached to Gentiles throughout the world. However, as the hearts of Gentiles as a race become hardened toward the gospel, then the spread of the gospel will be hindered and they will be cut off from their opportunity to hear. You see that there is no reference to a saved person losing his soul.

3. "Notice the seeming contradictory meaning of James 2:17-24 vs. Romans 4:4-6."

Answer: James 2:17-24 speaks clearly about justification by works *in the sight of men*. "I will shew thee my faith by my works." In man's sight, one is counted just by his good works. Our works convince people we are saved. But in the book of Romans the question under discussion is justification *in God's sight*, and Romans 3:20 plainly says: "Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified *in his sight*: for by the law is the knowledge of sin." That explains Romans 4:4-6. It is God that imputes righteousness to a man without works, but people do not count a man righteous without works. Faith justifies a man in God's sight. Works justifies a man in man's sight.

Please forgive the delay in answering your letter. I hope these suggestions will be a blessing to you.

Your brother in Christ,
JRR:lb John R. Rice

from Saturday to Sunday. Seventh Day Adventists say they did, and some Roman Catholics, anxious for the honor, say they did. But all Roman Catholics mean is that the apostles in New Testament times met on the Lord's Day, Sunday, and churches adopted the plan of meeting on that day. That much certainly is clear from the New Testament records, if you study it with an open mind. Catholics, of course, say that Peter was the first Pope and therefore that the Catholic church did whatever the apostles did. Manifestly, that is false.

Methodist pastors and Baptist pastors have made a great mistake in trying to teach that the sabbath has been changed from Saturday to Sunday, and calling Sunday the sabbath. Sunday is not the sabbath and never was. It is "the Lord's Day" instead, a different day with a different meaning. Sunday school is not the sabbath school.

I will be glad to help if there are further questions you have after an honest and prayerful study of the pamphlet sent you.

In the Saviour's name, yours,

John R. Rice

(Sixteen-page booklet by the editor, "Sunday or Sabbath, Which Should Christians Observe?" sent free on request.)

Delivered From the Snare of the Movies

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

company in the Southern states, have been attending young people's conferences at Columbia Bible College, etc. — how much more wonderful and what joys to be going to these conferences instead of the movies. With the Lord's help, I will never put my foot inside a movie again. Praise the Lord and may He richly bless you for your grand book (*Philemon 3, 4*).

"The book is being passed on and a great number of lives will be touched. I don't see how one who professes to be a Christian could go to the movies after reading your book, so I am going to give it to a group of young Christians at the college to pass around over the campus. There are 2,000 students enrolled. Please pray for this college, Woman's Department of the University of North Carolina. Several of us Christian girls are doing personal work among the students. Prayers are greatly needed.

"Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Miss) "L— F—" Greensboro, North Carolina

HIS WAY

God bade me go when I would stay
('Twas cool within the wood);
I did not know the reason why.
I heard a boulder crashing by
Across the path where I stood.

He bade me stay when I would go;
"Thy will be done," I said.
They found one day at early dawn
Across the way I would have gone,
A serpent with a mangled head.

No more I ask the reason why,
Although I may not see
The path ahead, His way I go;
For though I know not, He doth
know,
And He will choose safe paths
for me.

— The Sunday School Times.

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FOLLOWING JESUS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

dying sinners. There is nothing like it. If you were following Him, you would love sinners.

I heard Gipsy Smith speak in Dallas. Bless his heart, he got on my toes, and I got on fire as I heard him preach and weep over sinners! When I got out of that building—there was a great crowd there and it took a long time to get out—I said, "Lord, lead me to somebody to speak to." Here was a taxi driver standing by his car, and I said to him, "Are you a Christian?"

And he said, "Well, I don't know, but I believe I am."

"Believing is not enough," I said, "you must make sure."

"But I think I got it settled," he said.

"When did you get it settled?"

And he said that some fellow had just talked to him, a gray haired fellow with mustache and dark eyes, who had said, "You have got to do it right now; you don't dare go home without it, you might die tonight!"

"And he said I had to do it right now, so I did and I believe I got it settled."

I asked him a few questions and found that the Gipsy himself had gotten down from the platform and to the outside and had won this taxi driver before I got there. He meant business about what he was preaching. And God forgive the rest of us if we don't mean business for God, too!

I tell you now, I hear sinners say everywhere I go, "The churches are full of hypocrites," and then I try to choke it down their throats and I say, "You are a hypocrite yourself, living for the devil. You oughtn't to be criticizing somebody who is better than you are!" But then down in my heart I have a sneaking feeling and I think, "Yes, you are on the outside, a hardened sinner, but you are telling the truth about this bunch of worldly church members who have no passion for sinners." You can't claim to follow Jesus if you don't have a broken heart for dying souls.

"Souls are dying,
Brother, do you care?
Souls undone away from God,
My brother, do you care?
Souls are dying,
Brother, do you care?
Souls are dying."

The urgency of Jesus! If you love Him and if you follow Him, you are going to win souls, you are going to have a concern and a passion about them.

Only God's Power Makes A Soul Winner

Then the second part of this verse says, "... and I will make you fishers of men."

Now, let's see what that means. First of all soul winning proves that you are following Jesus. He does the making. You say, "I can't make myself a soul winner." But if you follow Jesus, He makes you that. That is an evidence you are following Him.

The second thing about this is that a soul winner is not a soul winner by natural ability. Somebody says, "I would like to win souls, but I don't have the gift of gab." That isn't the gift it takes, my friends. It takes the gift of the Holy Spirit, an entirely different gift. It is not by natural ability.

A certain man that I know stood on the platform and preached one day and poured out his heart, and the Lord touched the audience and people were saved. The breath of Heaven was on the hearts of all who were there. That day out in front a man sat, he was a cold, worldly man. He looked the preacher over and as he saw the way the hearts of the people were melted, he said to a missionary friend of mine by whom he sat, "What personality! What magnetism!" I tell you, my friends, personality doesn't save souls, and it never did. You may have all the graces, you may have the manners of a Chesterfield, you may be at home in the drawing rooms and never win a soul for all your personal and scholarship.

I know a lot of preachers who quote the poets and refer to science and they love to do it, and they draw their illustrations from the classics, but they never win a soul, and their speech is like an iceberg and their hearts have no passion and they have no power. I tell you, human wisdom and human ability does not win souls.

Some people say, "Don't you think one man is called to be a lawyer and another is called to be a grocer and some men are called to be a soul winner?" No, sir, I do not, not any more than some are called to be monkeys and some elephants and some angels. No, no, they are entirely different classes. Natural abilities and qualifications will not make you a soul winner. God has to make you a soul winner. The truth of the matter is that some of the best soul winners have not had what other men think necessary.

A man came to see me some time ago in deep concern. He was whipped and defeated, and God gave us from defeated preachers. One thing I like about your pastor, he has a great God Who is still alive and who answers prayers! He has hallelujahs in his heart. I wouldn't give two bits for a preacher who was "under the circumstances." But this man who came to see me was down in the mouth, and he said, "I am about out of the ministry. The churches don't want men like me."

"What is the matter with you?" I asked.

"I haven't any education much. I never went beyond the ninth grade in school. People don't want to hear me. The only folks who want to hear my kind of preaching are of the kind who won't pay anything for preaching."

I said, "Yes, you are in bad shape. You have never been above the ninth grade. Of course you are a good deal better than Moody was. He had only been to about the fifth grade. Poor fellow, he just didn't have any education and nobody would hear him preach! And you are in bad shape. After you win a million or two souls like Moody did, I would just quit. But until you do, I believe I would go ahead and try to win a million, and then you can talk about education." I am for education, but it does not make soul winners!

My friends, listen to me, when you have a heart for it and you are on fire by the Holy Ghost, if God breathes the breath of Heaven on your ministry and you have a fresh contact with God every day, then God will save sinners, and God is the only One who can!

Do you think Peter said, "I am master of ceremonies, I am a magician over men's hearts. I can make a stony heart into a heart of flesh. I am a miracle worker by natural attainments"? No, what a fool any man is who thinks he can save a soul or turn a heart to God by natural means!

I hope you can see something. You might think, if I had a certain genius or happened on a certain line, some human manipulation, I could win souls. You will never do it. A young man or young woman might go to Moody Bible Institute or to a seminary, and God bless good schools, but they can't make soul winners, they never did and they never will. God makes soul winners. It takes a man whose heart is filled with the miracle-working breath of Heaven, the Holy Ghost of God. That is what it takes. The Lord didn't ask you to change anybody's heart.

Somebody says, "My husband won't listen to me." That is the way it was with Lot in Sodom, too. The trouble is that you have been living down in Sodom and you have sold out and called the devil's crowd "brethren" like Lot did. He was with the drinking bad companions in that wicked city, and "he was as one that mocked to his sons-in-law." That is the reason you can't win anybody to the Lord. You are like the disciples when Jesus came down from the mount of transfiguration and there is a father with his son who is devil-possessed and you can't cast him out. If you prayed an honest prayer you would pray the prayer of the eleventh chapter of Luke where a man goes to his friend and says, "Friend, lend me three loaves, for a friend of mine in his journey is come to me and I have nothing to set before him." You would say, "Lord, fill me! I don't have what it takes. I have somebody God expects me to win, somebody who came my way and is depending on me. I am the best Christian somebody knows. God has put him in my way, and I haven't what it takes. Oh, God, give me bread for sinners." This is the prayer of the eleventh chapter of Luke. "I have nothing to set before him!"

The man who is going to be a soul winner is the man whom God touches with His Holy Spirit. You say, "The Word of God will win souls." Is that so? Will it win them in the mouth of an Ingerson? Will it win them for you now when you get backslidden and out of the harness, when you use the same outlines and the same illustrations and have no passion. When you have not been on your knees and your heart is not touched and there is no fire of God, will it work just the same?

You say, "I thought the Word was a sword." That is true, but it is "the sword of the Spirit" of God and the Spirit Himself must wield it. It is a sword, but you don't wield it. I have a hand, and if I will let Him, the dear Spirit of God can use this hand. I have a voice, if He will use this voice. I have a mind, and I have a heart, and if He takes the Word and plants it in my heart and lets it bloom and blossom and bear fruit, if God enlightens my mind, then if the Holy Spirit takes the thoughts of this heart and the Spirit of God fills me until when I speak, God speaks, and when I talk to a man's ears God speaks to his heart, then we will have souls saved. God makes soul winners! Jesus said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."

And to the unconverted — are you a poor sinner? You had as well settle this, then, it is a miracle when sinners get saved. That is actually a miracle. It can't be done by any natural means. It is a miracle of God as definite as when God made Adam from a bit of clay and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and he became a living soul. In the same sense as that, this is a miracle. The creation of man is a Scriptural picture of salvation, of regeneration. But it is just as much a miracle when God takes you who are Christians and uses you to breathe the breath of life into another soul. That is a miracle of God. God makes soul winners. Oh, dear friends, today don't you want Jesus to make you a soul winner? That means leaving all and putting Him first. That means loving Him, giving Him your all. Self must die, and the Lord Jesus have His way. That means that He then will

breathe upon you so that you can win souls.

You remember when He came on the first day that He arose from the dead, He came into the upper room where the disciples were gathered together and said, "Peace be unto you." And He showed them His hands and His feet. Oh, the peace of the blood! I am glad I am saved! I rejoice that my name is written in Heaven! Hallelujah for the peace of salvation! My sins will not be brought out against me any more! But wait, there is more peace for a Christian. What is that? Jesus said, "Peace be unto you. As my Father hath sent me, so send I you." And He breathed on them and said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." Oh, the Holy Spirit of God makes soul winners when He comes upon us.

You remember in Luke 24:49 Jesus said it is my will that you preach the gospel in all nations beginning at Jerusalem, and He said, "Ye are witnesses of these things," and then He said, "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endowed with power from on high."

Unless God puts the dynamite of God in your heart, unless the Holy Spirit of God miraculously makes you a soul winner, you will not be a soul winner.

You say, "I don't believe in praying for the Holy Spirit."

Yes, you do. You have just listened to some off-color Bible teaching somewhere. You may be mixed up in your head, but in your heart you know better. Did you ever pray for sinners to be convicted? Who convicts sinners? The Holy Spirit. Did you ever pray for a revival? Who gives revivals? The Holy Spirit. Did you ever pray for God to enlighten your mind? Did you? Who enlightens the mind? The Holy Spirit! Did you ever ask God to help you pray according to His will so He could answer? Who is it that helps a Christian in prayer, that prays with groanings that cannot be uttered? It is the Holy Spirit! You do believe in praying for the Holy Spirit, too. Not for Him to live in your body. That is already a fact for every saved person has that. "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His," Romans 8:9 says. But the power, the anointing to make you a soul winner, Jesus said, "You follow me and get that, and I will make you fishers of men." Oh, may God give us souls and power for souls!

Start Today To Follow Jesus!

The pastor is going to have an offering in a little bit. There should be somebody who will say, "By God's grace, I am going to leave something today."

Something that clings to your fingers — maybe it is a diamond ring—God says, "Put it on this mission work." Maybe it is a car that you planned to buy, but God says, "Send a missionary to the Indians in the Amazon Valley," or to the heart of Africa or somewhere else. Maybe it is a new house to build or a nice apartment you wanted to rent, or maybe it is a special trip this summer, and God says, "Can't you leave anything for Me?" Can't you give up ships and nets and father and business like John and Andrew and Peter and like Levi left the receipt of custom? Can't you leave anything for Jesus?

I would feel my ministry for this week to be useless and in vain if nobody left anything. I know

you put a dollar or five dollars or ten dollars in the offering, but it didn't leave you any poorer or any better Christian. You didn't leave anything really. You aren't going to leave anything just to say, "I will do no more than before." You will not have taken a new step, your life will not be transformed. May God grant that you may have the passion of Christ to win souls! May God give you grace!

I wonder, too, if God doesn't say to somebody here, "Would you leave all and follow me?"

Won't you in your heart, say, "If God wants me, I will leave all for China or for Africa or for work in the hospitals or jails or in the mountains or in South America." I wonder, does God say, "Would you leave all?"

I want the pastor to take a good offering, but can't you say, "I will put myself in the basket for God and God can have me. By God's grace this morning, if God wants me, He can have me. I lay myself out now. If He wants me to preach or to quit my business I will shut it up and never go back again."

You say, "We have got to be prudent." We are prudent while the world is on fire. We are prudent in our prosperity, our nice cars the security of our homes, we are prudent and the world is on fire! It was Calvary for Him! He had no place to lay His head, and He had the scorn and hatred of the world. But we are secure and happy and prosperous. We have good jobs and lots of friends. We have left nothing for Jesus.

Is there anybody here who will say, "I will put myself in the offering basket for God"? Would you like to stand up, and maybe you will want to say, "God wants me to preach the gospel," or "God wants me to be a missionary, I don't know where, but He can have me today if He will but hold on to me and give me guidance and open doors for me and send me out. He can have me today." You don't have to know where, but does God speak to your heart?

Is there a girl or a boy or a man or woman and God says, "Today I want you." That means leaving something for God. Is there someone to whom God has a special call and God says, "I want you for full-time service." Will you lay your life on the altar? Maybe God means for you not to make tents or something else. Maybe He wants you to be a missionary. Or maybe you don't know what He wants you to do, but you know He says, "Come, follow me!" Would you stand up on that and say, "I will put myself in the offering basket today"? Could you say that?

I wonder if anybody ought to put an automobile in the basket today? Or put your vacation in the basket today? I don't know. Don't do it to please me or this pastor. Yours must be in there, pastor, if you drive it every day for the Lord, and mine must be in there. I wonder if God wants you to give up something for missions today? Today may He help some to leave their nets and their ships and their fathers and all they have, to follow Jesus. It may be He will lead to a cross, or shame or spitting, or the other side of the world. But He will make you a soul winner whether at home or abroad, if you follow Him. His leading is always to help save a dying world of sinners!

(Several gave themselves up to follow Jesus anywhere. Reader, will you, today?)

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